

politicians who effectively appointed themselves as the decision-makers over the bodies, lives, and futures [of women].

Dr. McNicholas informed us that the demand for care at her facility in Illinois has tripled since the *Roe v. Wade* decision was overturned by the Supreme Court. She said:

The Supreme Court's decision has already pushed people—the people each one of you represent—into extreme, and sometimes dangerous, circumstances in order to access one of the safest and most common healthcare procedures.

The radical, far-right majority on the Alito Supreme Court has put lives at risk by revoking a constitutional right, which was on the books for almost 50 years. Now, Members of this Senate must act to protect another constitutional right related to this debate: the right to travel across State lines to access healthcare, in this case, reproductive care.

That is why I am joining my colleagues Senators CORTEZ MASTO, PATTY MURRAY, SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, and KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND in cosponsoring the Freedom To Travel Healthcare Act of 2022.

Women and their health providers are counting on us to pass this bill. They find it hard to imagine that State legislators, and even some Federal officials, would try to restrict the right to cross a State boundary for medical care because the anti-choice legislators who have already outlawed abortion in their State are not content with what they have done already. In fact, right now, they are proposing legislation that would turn many State borders into Checkpoint Charlie in America. These lawmakers are hell-bent on denying women fundamental freedoms, no matter how many constitutional rights they infringe upon.

The question is, How far are we willing to let them go? Will we allow them to penalize and prosecute healthcare professionals who provide essential care to their patients in States where abortion remains legal? Are we going to allow these lawmakers to hold American citizens hostage in their own States, forcing them to give birth? Does that sound like the America that we know? No, it doesn't. And we need to draw the line here and now by passing the Freedom To Travel for Healthcare Act of 2022.

2022 NATO SUMMIT

Madam President, during the first part of the July recess, I traveled with several of my Senate colleagues to the historic NATO summit in Madrid, Spain.

On Tuesday, several members of our bipartisan group—Senators SHAHEEN, TILLIS, COONS, ERNST, and BLUNT—spoke on the floor about the trip. Senator FISCHER was also with us at that summit meeting.

I think Senator TILLIS of North Carolina said it best, that despite policy differences within our group of Senators, there was no daylight between us on two profoundly important matters: We

agree, Finland and Sweden should be welcomed into NATO. And we also agree that the illegal, barbaric war on Ukraine by Russian dictator Vladimir Putin must not succeed.

At the summit, we met with leaders from a number of our allies, including, for the first time, leaders from the Indo-Pacific region who joined the NATO summit.

Japanese Prime Minister Kishida was clear when he told us:

The security of Europe and the Indo-Pacific are inseparable.

And German Chancellor Scholz expressed an unwavering commitment to take as long as needed to make sure Ukraine retains its sovereignty against Russia's barbaric aggression.

But perhaps what was most notable was the overwhelming sense of unity and defense of common values found among our NATO allies in the face of Russian aggression. For that, I want to give President Biden credit. He spent an hour or more with our bipartisan delegation at the summit meeting. He and his able team, Secretary of State Blinken, Secretary of Defense Austin, and others, met with us and discussed in detail what was being debated at the summit.

I have been traveling to Eastern Europe and meeting with allies for many years. I can tell you, I have never felt such a shared sense of purpose and determination to stop the Russian threat.

As Senator TILLIS noted on Tuesday, our safety at home is inextricably linked to the security of Europe. Our bipartisan delegation understood this. The world leaders at the NATO summit understood it, and President Biden certainly understands it. Vladimir Putin would serve his people well by understanding it as well.

In the Senate, we can help Putin understand the unbreakable unity and resolve of the world's democracies by being one of the first NATO members of nations to approve Finland and Sweden's membership. We should do that without delay.

SWEDEN

Madam President, before arriving at the NATO summit in Spain, I joined my colleagues in visiting one of the prospective new NATO aspirants: Sweden.

Sweden has long been a security ally. For nearly 200 years, it has tried to maintain the semblance of nonalignment. That changed swiftly with Vladimir Putin's aggression. It triggered an overwhelming Swedish support to join NATO, and Sweden began shipping weapons to Ukraine to help in the war effort, something it hadn't done since helping Finland resist Nazi aggression in 1939.

Swedish leaders recognize Russia's aggression today as the same kind of behavior seen in Europe in World War II. They know that the collective NATO security arrangement is critical to stopping Russia. I agree completely and look forward to their NATO membership.

Putin thought he could fracture NATO by invading Ukraine. Look what he did. He stoked petty grievances against NATO, and in the end, we are picking up two valuable, important allies.

And, incidentally, Vladimir Putin, you are now going to have 800 miles of new NATO territory on your border.

LITHUANIA AND BELARUS

Madam President, I was unable to join my colleagues who visited Finland as their first stop, as I was in Lithuania, a Baltic State with long memories of Russian tyranny.

In no place is the value of the collective NATO defense more stark than in the Baltic States, which Putin, no doubt, would like to forcibly return to Soviet dystopia.

Lithuanian leaders, including President Nausėda, the Speaker of Parliament Cėmylė-Nielsen, are keenly aware of the Russian threat. But Lithuania is undeterred in helping its neighbors in Ukraine and Belarus stand up to Russian aggression, and they are unafraid to stand up to the Chinese bullies as well.

I was glad again to spend time with Valdas Adamkus, a highly successful Lithuanian immigrant to Chicago who returned back to his homeland of Lithuania and successfully ran for President. He was there shortly after Lithuania gained its independence from the Soviet Union.

President Adamkus' historic leadership and foresight helped bring Lithuania not only into the European Union, but equally important, into NATO. And for that, the Lithuanian Parliament recently honored his achievements. Quite simply, Lithuania is safer today because of his vision.

The awe and esteem Lithuanians feel for this historic leader was clear from the reverence shown by the Lithuanian people.

I also want to mention the tireless work of Belarusian opposition leader Svetlana Tsikhanouskaya, who lives in Lithuania after fleeing from Belarus from the henchmen of the strongman leader Alexander Lukashenko. You see, 2 years ago, her husband, Sergei, ran for President against Lukashenko. We know from history that anybody who was courageous enough to run against Lukashenko is going to end up in prison after the sham elections which he stages with regularity.

Lukashenko, worried that he couldn't win a fair election, jailed Sergei, her husband. Rather than back down in fear, Svetlana, the wife, ran in his place. She probably won the rigged election but had to flee with her family, leaving Sergei to face an outrageous 18-year prison sentence.

This is a picture of Sergei Tsikhanouskaya facing an 18-year sentence in Belarusian prison because he had the temerity to challenge Lukashenko. Now his wife, a courageous woman if I ever met one, is trying to plead his cause and is safely with her children in Lithuania.